



Senate Majority
Communications Office

NEWS RELEASE

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Senator Kuipers Announces Over \$108,000 in Job Training Grants for Grand Haven Workers

Nearly 400 Local Employees Will Benefit from State Dollars

(LANSING) – State Senator Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today announced that nearly 400 Grand Haven employees will now have the opportunity to improve their job skills through \$108,780 in state job training grants.

The grants, funded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Economic Development Job Training program, will be used to upgrade the skills of workers at Engine Power Components, Inc., Grand Haven Plastics, Inc., Light Corporation and R.A. Miller Industries, Inc. All four companies are located in Grand Haven.

"This funding helps to ensure that Grand Haven families will continue to have good jobs as well as the potential for wage earners to improve their skills and income," said Kuipers. "I am encouraged to see our local economy moving forward."

The grants are part of a statewide initiative to help companies improve their workforce. Throughout Michigan, nearly \$1.1 million in grants will be used to train 2,179 workers.

Muskegon Community College will provide training for 228 Engine Power Components employees and 50 new hires by way of a \$50,000 grant, 39 Grand Haven Plastics employees and five new hires through \$18,782 in grants, 26 Light Corporation employees via \$15,000 in grants and 52 R.A. Miller Industries employees thanks to a \$24,998 grant.

The job training program helps Michigan businesses create new jobs or retain existing jobs

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by improving the skills and competitiveness of Michigan's workforce. Under the requirements of the program, employers must provide a 25 percent match for training existing workers.

The funds will be administered by Michigan community colleges, vocational-technical schools or another training provider chosen by the company to perform the training, much of which will be delivered through the 17 Michigan Technical Education Centers that are open statewide. One additional center is scheduled to open within the next year.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life.

For more information on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at www.michigan.org.

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